



**SOLUTIONS
FOR POLLUTION**
For Clean Air and
a Healthy Climate

November, 14th 2022

President Joseph R. Biden

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

The undersigned 166 organizations—representing million members—appreciate that your administration has restored rigorous, science-based decision-making to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies as they develop solutions for pollution that will protect public health. Turning the page on the disastrous and deadly anti-science agenda of the previous administration is literally a matter of life and death for people across the nation. While we were encouraged to see the introduction of many important safeguards in your [Spring 2022 plan](#) we write to share our deep concern that many of the actions continue to be delayed. Time is of the utmost essence, but for a number of these actions, the timeline is already slipping into 2023. We believe the science is clear and that there is quite literally no time for delay in setting strong limits on air pollution, specifically for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) or soot.

Soot pollution exposure causes increased infant mortality, cardiovascular disease, asthma, diabetes, cognitive impairments, and even premature death. As is often the case, these health burdens are disproportionately borne by communities already overburdened by pollution, particularly lower-income households and communities of color who are more likely to live near heavily polluting facilities and high-traffic roadways. Simply put, soot is deadly. And each day that passes without updated

limits is another day that millions of Americans are exposed to unhealthy and potentially deadly levels of soot pollution. Additionally, the delay in pushing forward a strong soot pollution standard is also holding back the co-benefits we would see for nature and our ecosystems as well as in reductions in other air and climate pollution.

We are united in our call for the EPA to set the strongest possible protections to limit soot pollution without delay. Specifically, we call on your administration to quickly set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter pollution of no higher than 8 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for the annual standard and no higher than 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for the 24-hour standard. Doing so could avoid nearly 20,000 premature deaths annually. It will also begin to mitigate long-standing environmental and health injustices faced by fenceline communities and will benefit people and the environment across the country.

In August, we applauded the advancement of the soot pollution standards to interagency review at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). However, we are deeply concerned to see that polluters secured additional meetings—sometimes more than once—further delaying the process at the expense of improved health and environmental justice outcomes for communities that have borne the brunt of this pollution. OMB has already exceeded the mandated 90-day deadline on several appliance efficiency standards and for pollutants like hydrofluorocarbons, giving us cause for concern. Knowing that the mercury and air toxics standards and methane safeguards are also languishing adds to the frustration. We hoped this soot standard would come open for public comment by the end of summer, consistent with EPA's public statements, but it is now approaching November without a proposal in sight.

Mr. President, Americans are depending on your administration to protect their right to clean air and healthy communities. People need and deserve to know if their air is safe to breathe. Without science-based, updated air quality standards, too many remain in the dark regarding their local conditions. That is why we need solutions for pollution—and we need them now. We urge you to move quickly to advance and finalize stronger soot pollution standards and to swiftly move all rules forward that

protect public health, stave off the worst of the climate crisis, and improve the quality of our lives. Every additional day of delay means hazy skies and more toxic soot pollution in the lungs of our vulnerable children and seniors. We urge you to act as swiftly and boldly as possible. The eyes of our community, the nation, and the world are upon you.

Sincerely,

10 Votes

350 Humboldt

AFGE Local 704

*Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments*

*American Society of Perianesthesia
Nurses (ASPAN)*

*American Sustainable Business
Network*

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.

Appalachian Gamechangers

Appalachian Mountain Club

Appalachian Voices

Arizona Climate Action Coalition

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light

*Asthma & Allergy Foundation of
America – Michigan Chapter*

*Asthma and Allergy Foundation of
America*

Aytzim: Ecological Judaism

Between the Waters

Black Millennials 4 Flint

Breathe Project

California Communities Against Toxics

CALPIRG Students

Center for American Progress

Center for Biological Diversity

*Change the Chamber*Lobby for
Climate*

Clean Air Council

Clean Energy for America

Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund

CleanAIRE NC

CODEPINK San Francisco Bay Area

Concerned Citizens of Cook County

Connecticut Interfaith Power & Light

Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania

Defend Our Future

Delaware Sikh Coalition

Detroit Green Skills Alliance

Dogwood Alliance

Don't Waste Arizona

*Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith
Power and Light*

*Earth Rise Indivisible and Climate
Reality Project, NOVA Chapter*

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Elders Climate Action

Elders Climate Action - Arizona

Elected Officials to Protect America

Environmental Defense Fund

Environmental Health Project

Environmental Law & Policy Center

Evangelical Environmental Network

Evergreen Action

*Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay
Area*

Extinction Rebellion US

Faith in Place

Faith In Place Action Fund

First Focus on Children

Florida Rising

Forest Keeper

FreshWater Accountability Project

Fridays for Future

Friends For Environmental Justice

Friends of the Earth

Georgia Conservation Voters

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

Georgia WAND Education Fund Inc

*Global Alliance for Incinerator
Alternatives (GAIA)*

Great Lakes Business Network

Green Door Initiative

Green New Deal for DC

Green the Church

GreenLatinos

Group Against Smog & Pollution

*Harambee House, Inc. / Citizens for
Environmental Justice*

Health Care Without Harm

Healthy Dubois County (Indiana)

*Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah
(HEAL Utah)*

Hispanic Access Foundation

Hispanic Federation

IASN

Indivisible

Interfaith Power & Light

*Islamic Society of North America
(ISNA)*

Keystone Progress Education Fund

Kids Climate Action Network

*Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, &
the Environment*

League of Conservation Voters

Locust Point Community Garden

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

*Medical Society Consortium on
Climate and Health*

MI Air MI Health

Mi Familia Vota

MI Interfaith Power & Light

Michigan Climate Action Network

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action

*Michigan League of Conservation
Voters*

Michigan Student Power Alliance

Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

Moms Clean Air Force

Moms Clean Air Force GA

*Montana Health Professionals for a
Healthy Climate*

Mothers & Others For Clean Air

MoveOn.org HobokenRESIST

*National Hispanic Medical Association
(NHMA)*

National Medical Association

*National Parks Conservation
Association*

National Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation (NH)

New Hampshire Youth Movement

*New Mexico & El Paso Region Interfaith
Power and Light*

New Mexico Environmental Law Center

NextGen America

NH Youth Movement

NJ Audubon

Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition

Original United Citizens of Southwest

Our Revolution Northern Virginia

Passionist Solidarity Network

PennEnvironment

PennFuture

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

*Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and
Light*

Physicians for Social Responsibility

*Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania*

Poder Latinx

*Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of
Public Witness*

Protegete

PSR Arizona Chapter

Rachel Carson Council

Rep GA Institute Inc

Respiratory Health Association

Responsible Alpha

Revolving Door Project

Root Local

*San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social
Responsibility*

*SC Health Professionals for Climate
Action*

Scientist Rebellion

Service Employees International Union

Sierra Club

Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

*Southwestern Indiana Citizens for
Quality of LifeMa*

Terra Advocati

Texas Campaign for the Environment

Thlrd Act – VA

The Clean Air Coalition of WNY

*The Climate Reality Project:
Philadelphia and Southeastern PA
Chapter*

The Enviro Show

The Last Beach Cleanup

The People's Justice Council

The Porter Family Foundation

The Quantum Institute

Third Act Richmond

Three Rivers Waterkeeper

Tucson Audubon Society

UnidosUS Action Fund

Union of Concerned Scientists

*Unitarian Universalist action of New
Hampshire*

Unite North Metro Denver

Unlimited Potential

*US Partnership for Education for
Sustainable Development*

Valley Watch, Inc.

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Warehouse Workers for Justice

*Washington Physicians for Social
Responsibility*

Waterway Advocates

West Virginia New Jobs Coalition

WildEarth Guardians

Wisconsin Conservation Voters

*Wisconsin Health Professionals for
Climate Action*

Young Evangelicals for Climate Action